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### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1987

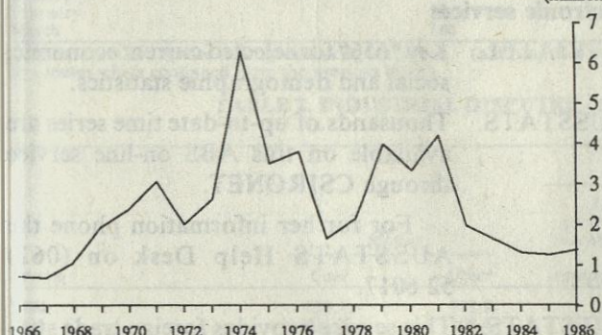
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### MAIN FEATURES

#### WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA

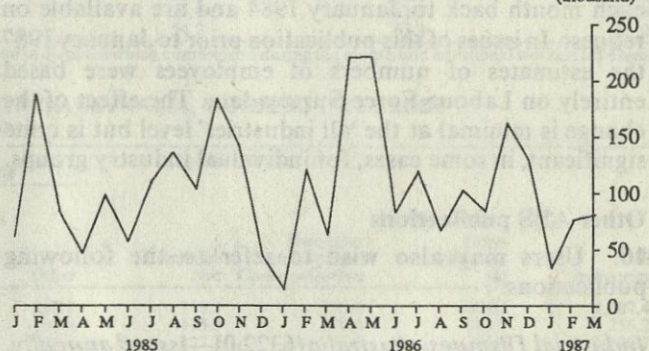
Year ended December

Working days  
lost  
(million)



January 1985 to March 1987

Working days  
lost  
(thousand)



In March 1987, there were 81,000 working days lost by 63,100 workers in 164 disputes, compared with 76,300 working days lost by 41,700 workers in 140 disputes in February 1987.

In the 12 months ended March 1987, 1,383,000 working days were lost compared with 1,122,400 and 1,385,600 working days lost in the 12 months ended March 1986 and March 1985 respectively.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

The statistics relate to disputes which have occurred in *all* industries and involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

#### Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

5. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.



8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimate of numbers of employees are obtained from the Survey of Employment and Earnings and the Labour Force Surveys.

#### Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in agriculture and in private households obtained from the Labour Force Survey to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987 the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

#### Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1985* (6101.0)

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia* (6248.0)—issued quarterly

11. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

12. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

#### Electronic services

13. VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

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**IAN CASTLES**  
Australian Statistician



TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1984	1,958	1,965	551.1	560.3	1,307.4
1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5	1,256.2
1986	1,680	1,687	673.7	675.9	1,390.7
Twelve months ended—					
March 1985	1,926	1,947	579.2	586.6	1,385.6
1986	1,784	1,802	503.9	511.4	1,122.4
1987	1,667	1,687	701.0	720.4	1,383.0
1986—					
February	155	164	32.4	48.3	121.0
March	142	158	26.9	43.1	63.1
April	111	131	33.6	52.9	221.1
May	162	178	236.1	240.2	221.8
June	118	130	30.3	35.2	83.5
July	194	208	75.4	80.8	119.9
August	132	147	27.6	29.6	67.3
September	151	171	53.9	64.1	102.7
October	177	195	70.6	74.6	84.2
November	162	185	49.0	63.3	162.2
December	99	124	31.9	49.0	128.8
1987—					
January	91	95	12.8	15.1	34.2
February	124	140	25.9	41.7	76.3
March	146	164	54.2	63.1	81.0

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing				Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Mining	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Other				
	Coal	Other						
1984	131.1	193.2	144.8	249.3	116.3	150.6	322.1	1,307.4
1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2
1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7
Twelve months ended—								
March 1985	236.6	187.9	158.5	209.4	115.0	182.2	296.0	1,385.6
1986	202.6	96.9	92.4	186.1	165.4	153.9	225.0	1,122.4
1987	299.5	186.6	199.6	223.4	146.0	52.8	275.2	1,383.0
1986—								
February	83.3	6.6	4.0	3.3	5.3	3.8	14.8	121.0
March	15.6	5.0	12.2	9.8	3.4	8.5	8.7	63.1
April	150.7	22.9	7.3	11.8	4.4	4.6	19.4	221.1
May	23.1	20.7	82.2	18.9	52.2	11.6	13.1	221.8
June	6.5	29.2	9.0	12.8	9.1	9.3	7.6	83.5
July	17.5	28.4	9.2	30.7	6.9	9.9	17.2	119.9
August	5.3	31.6	7.0	11.0	3.3	2.6	6.6	67.3
September	6.8	11.6	11.8	48.1	7.0	1.1	16.3	102.7
October	18.8	2.7	19.1	18.4	3.2	1.7	20.4	84.2
November	20.1	8.3	19.4	25.5	10.0	0.8	78.2	162.2
December	12.7	11.5	4.5	13.7	8.7	1.1	76.7	128.8
1987—								
January	1.0	13.5	3.8	2.7	6.8	3.1	3.3	34.2
February	30.8	2.4	15.4	17.5	8.0	2.2	10.0	76.3
March	6.1	4.0	20.8	12.2	26.5	4.9	6.5	81.0

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1984	660.6	187.5	236.5	25.5	119.2	50.5	1,307.4
1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7
Twelve months ended—							
March 1985	631.6	199.4	365.4	23.2	92.7	47.0	1,385.6
1986	408.1	341.6	203.4	22.9	89.7	22.8	1,122.4
1987	571.6	401.8	155.2	44.5	161.7	27.7	1,383.0
1986—							
February	82.1	6.9	20.3	1.8	5.6	1.8	121.0
March	37.3	12.2	3.4	2.3	4.1	0.8	63.1
April	119.3	19.6	57.2	1.6	20.7	0.3	221.1
May	91.5	69.0	13.5	19.9	18.2	7.0	221.8
June	54.4	12.2	3.9	0.7	3.2	8.0	83.5
July	59.9	20.5	19.9	3.6	12.7	2.6	119.9
August	12.6	11.8	7.4	2.9	31.7	0.6	67.3
September	33.6	29.5	18.9	3.1	13.4	1.5	102.7
October	37.7	27.9	6.0	2.1	7.3	1.7	84.2
November	45.2	81.1	16.5	4.1	11.1	3.2	162.2
December	19.4	86.4	5.3	3.4	13.4	0.8	128.8
1987—							
January	12.7	3.5	1.3	0.6	14.4	0.4	34.2
February	44.6	19.6	2.8	0.3	4.2	0.3	76.3
March	40.6	20.9	2.4	2.2	11.3	1.3	81.0

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.



TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	r91	r248
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	r242
Twelve months ended—								
1985—								
March	7,043	3,545	377	349	472	447	83	260
1986—								
March	5,994	1,721	217	303	638	366	60	201
April	10,456	2,084	226	301	628	363	61	231
May	10,900	2,388	361	299	704	382	63	253
June	10,751	2,867	374	309	688	400	60	256
July	11,085	3,182	382	308	627	384	60	257
August	11,038	3,454	374	244	561	345	58	244
September	10,479	3,553	371	302	466	336	59	243
October	10,561	3,562	407	296	439	276	38	225
November	10,950	3,142	441	312	437	143	55	228
December	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242
1987—								
January	10,758	3,600	451	330	467	135	72	245
February	9,168	3,567	456	353	477	131	70	237
March	8,887	3,589	478	356	567	123	70	240

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1986 AND 1987

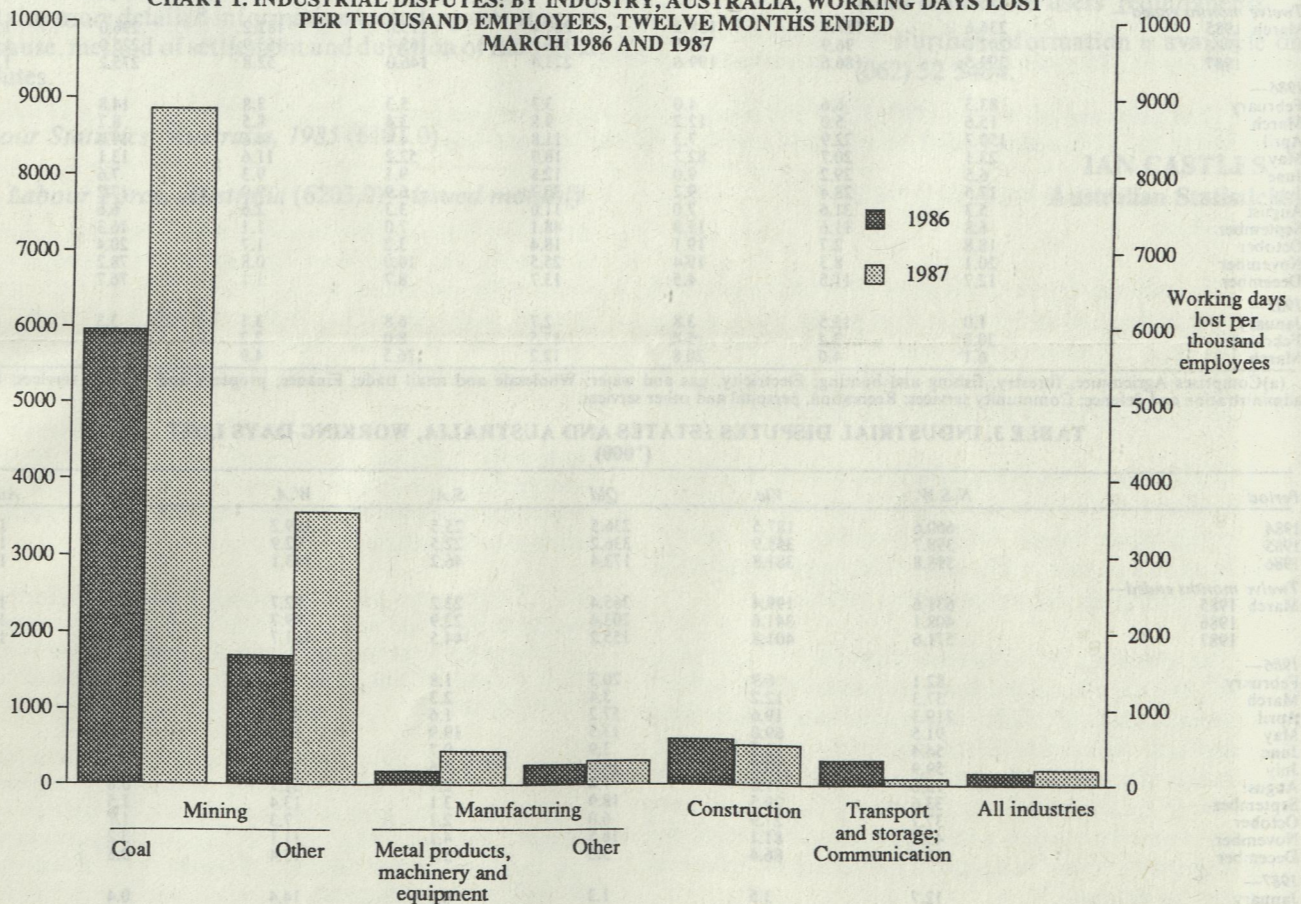




TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1984	r357	132	302	55	256	r350	r248
1985	209	236	411	47	187	r138	228
1986	304	240	207	95	272	190	r242
Twelve months ended—							
1985—							
March	339	139	460	50	196	322	260
1986—							
March	212	223	247	48	187	151	201
April	264	227	309	49	199	145	231
May	296	253	293	87	214	168	253
June	309	245	297	86	213	217	256
July	321	233	306	89	211	198	257
August	305	226	259	86	245	171	244
September	303	239	223	87	257	176	243
October	299	180	221	85	256	179	225
November	306	191	206	92	253	194	228
December	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
1987—							
January	307	239	208	95	295	186	245
February	288	247	187	92	290	176	237
March	289	252	186	91	303	178	240

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1986 AND 1987

